

“(A) the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework as developed by the Secretary; and

“(B) State early learning standards, as appropriate, with regard to cognitive, social, emotional, and physical competencies that children entering kindergarten are expected to demonstrate.”.

SEC. 10. LOCAL AND STATE INTEGRATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831) is amended by inserting after section 642A the following:

“SEC. 642B. LOCAL AND STATE INTEGRATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

“(a) **LOCAL INTEGRATION.**—In general, Head Start agencies shall enter into ongoing partnerships with local educational agencies and with State-funded preschool and other early childhood programs.

“(1) **MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.**—Each Head Start agency shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with any local educational agencies or local councils, responsible for managing publicly funded prekindergarten programs in the service area of the Head Start agency (or if such agencies and such councils are not applicable in the service area, with the largest provider of publicly funded prekindergarten in the service area), that shall include plans to coordinate the following activities:

“(A) Educational activities, curricula, and instruction.

“(B) Public information dissemination and access to programs for families contacting any of the early childhood programs.

“(C) Selection priorities for eligible children to be served by programs.

“(D) Service delivery areas.

“(E) Staff training, including opportunities for joint staff training on topics such as academic content standards, instructional methods, and social and emotional development.

“(F) Program technical assistance.

“(G) Provision of additional services to meet the needs of working parents.

“(H) Planning and parent education for smooth transitions to kindergarten as required in section 642A(3) and 642A(6).

“(I) Provision and use of facilities, transportation, and other program elements.

“(J) Other elements mutually agreed to by the parties to such memorandum.

“(2) **TIMING OF MEMORANDA.**—Each Head Start agency shall enter into a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1) not later than 1 year after the effective date of this section.

“(3) **SECRETARIAL REVIEW.**—Each memorandum of understanding entered into under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than 30 days after entering into such memorandum.

“(A) If a Head Start agency is unable to comply with the requirement in paragraph (1) the Head Start agency shall notify the Secretary and the chief executive officer of the State not later than 30 days after determining that they are unable to enter into such memorandum. The Secretary, in cooperation with the State Early Learning Council and the State Director of Head Start Collaboration, shall evaluate the causes of failure to enter into a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1). With the assistance of the State Early Learning Council and the State Director of Head Start Collaboration, all parties shall again attempt to enter into a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1). Then if no such memorandum of understanding is entered into, the Secretary shall make 1 of the following determinations:

“(i) The local educational agency, local council, or other appropriate entity is unable or unwilling to enter into such a memorandum despite reasonable efforts on the part of the Head Start agency.

“(ii) The Head Start agency has not engaged in reasonable efforts to successfully negotiate and enter into a memorandum of understanding pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(iii) There is an absence of publicly funded prekindergarten in the service area of the Head Start agency.

“(B) If the Secretary determines the Head Start agency is not making reasonable efforts to enter into a memorandum of understanding pursuant to paragraph (1), the Head Start agency shall be found to be noncompliant with program performance standards.

“(C) If the Secretary concludes that the local educational agency, local council, or other appropriate entity is not making reasonable efforts to reach such a memorandum of understanding, the Head Start agency shall not be found out of compliance with paragraph (1).

“(4) **REVISION OF MEMORANDA.**—Each memorandum of understanding shall be revised and renewed annually by the parties to such memorandum, in alignment with the beginning of the school year.

“(5) **ABSENCE OF PREKINDERGARTEN.**—In the absence of publicly funded prekindergarten in the service area of a Head Start agency, the Head Start agency shall submit notice to the Secretary and the chief executive officer of the State and shall work with the State Early Learning Council and the State Director of Head Start Collaboration to improve coordination in their service area.

“(b) **STATE EARLY LEARNING COUNCILS.**—From the amounts reserved under section 640(a)(2)(C)(iii), the Secretary shall award, upon submission of a written request and pursuant to the requirements of paragraph (2), an early learning collaboration grant to each State for the purposes of supporting a State Early Learning Council responsible for advancing the development of a coordinated early childhood services delivery system in the State. A State that receives a grant under this subparagraph shall—

“(1) establish a State Early Learning Council, which shall include—

“(A) the State Director of Head Start Collaboration;

“(B) representatives from the State preschool programs;

“(C) representatives of local educational agencies;

“(D) the State official who oversees child care programs;

“(E) the State official who oversees section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.);

“(F) the State official who oversees the State educational agency;

“(G) representatives from Head Start agencies located in the State, including migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start programs;

“(H) representatives of local child care programs or organizations; and

“(I) a representative of the State agency responsible for health and mental health care;

except that the chief executive officer of the State may designate an existing entity to serve as the Early Learning Council if such entity includes representatives described in this paragraph;

“(2) ensure that allotted funds distributed to a State for a fiscal year to carry out this subsection may be used by the State to pay not more than 50 percent of the cost of carrying out this subsection;

“(3) direct the early learning council to improve the coordination and quality of early childhood services within the State, including—

“(A) to increase coordination and collaboration among State preschool, Head Start programs, child care programs, early childhood special education, and other early childhood programs, including in the areas of outcomes and standards, technical assistance, coordination of services, cross-sector professional development and training, community outreach, communication, and better serving the needs of working families through provision of full-day and full-year early education services;

“(B) to work with State agencies responsible for education, child care, and early intervention to provide leadership and assistance to local Head Start programs, local education agencies, and State and locally funded preschool and child care programs to increase integration among early childhood programs through adoption of local memoranda of understanding described in subparagraph (A) and other means;

“(C) to work with State agencies responsible for education, child care, and early intervention to provide leadership and assistance to develop developmentally appropriate standards for children birth through the early elementary grades to effect a smooth transition to and success in the early elementary grades;

“(D) to develop or conduct periodic Statewide needs assessments concerning early care and education programs for children from birth to school entry;

“(E) to work to identify and address barriers to and opportunities for integration between entities carrying out Federal and State child development, child care, and early childhood education programs;

“(F) to develop recommendations regarding means of establishing a unified data collection system for early care and education programs operating throughout the State;

“(G) to address coordination of early learning programs with health care (including mental and behavioral health care), welfare, family literacy and services for homeless children;

“(H) to support a State system of early childhood education, and training and technical assistance that improves the quality of early learning programs and the capacity of such programs to deliver services pursuant to section 648(b);

“(I) to develop a plan for increasing the participation of children underrepresented in State early childhood education and child care programs, including Head Start, State preschool programs, and programs carried out under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.);

“(J) developing a Statewide professional development and career ladder plan for early care and education in the State; and

“(K) assisting 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education to develop articulation agreements concerning degrees in early childhood and related fields.

“(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to provide the Early Learning Council with authority to modify, supersede, or affect the operation of this subchapter.

“(5) Funds made available under this section shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, and local funds that would otherwise be expended to carry out the purposes of this section.”.

SEC. 11. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS.

Section 644 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9839) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(1) **STANDARDS.**—Each Head Start agency shall observe standards of organization, management, and administration which will ensure, so far as reasonably possible, that all program activities are conducted in a manner consistent with the purposes of this subchapter and the objective of providing assistance effectively, efficiently, and free of any taint of partisan political bias or personal or family favoritism. Each such agency shall establish or adopt rules to carry out this section, which shall include rules to assure full staff accountability in matters governed by law, regulations, or agency policy. Each agency shall also provide for reasonable public access to information, including public hearings at the request of appropriate community groups and reasonable public access to books and records of the agency or other agencies engaged in program activities or operations